

- (b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and
- (c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram.

19. (Four Times Amended) A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

40. (Amended) A granulate according to claim 22 comprising: (a) a derivatised cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose; and (b) an edible oil selected from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.

CLAIMS

18. (Five Times Amended) A phytase-containing granulate prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer;
- (b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and
- (c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram.

19. (Four Times Amended) A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

40. (Amended) A granulate according to claim 22 comprising: (a) a derivatised cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose; and (b) an edible oil selected from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.

ALL PENDING CLAIMS

18. (Five Times Amended) A phytase-containing granulate prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer,
- (b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and
- (c) mixing the said solid carrier and said aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram.

19. (Four Times Amended) A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous solution and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

20. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise at least one divalent cation.

21. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

22. A granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

23. (Amended) A granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatised cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxyl-ethyl-cellulose.

24. A granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or β -glucanase.
25. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the carrier comprises starch.
26. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.
27. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.
28. A granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.
31. (Amended) A composition comprising:
- (a) a granulate according to claim 18;
 - (b) a phytase-containing granulate with an activity of at least about 6,000 FTU/g;
 - or
 - (c) both a granulate according to (a) and a phytase-containing granulate according to (b).
32. A composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.
33. A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.
34. A composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least about 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.
35. A composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substances(s) or ingredient(s).

39. A granulate according to claim 22 comprising an edible oil selected from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.

40. (Amended) A granulate according to claim 22 comprising:

(a) a derivatised cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxyl-ethyl-cellulose;

(b) and an edible oil from the group consisting of soy oil and canola oil.